



North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State Library of North Carolina
Administration and Library Development

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Lisbeth C. Evans, Secretary

Mary L. Boone, State Librarian

MEMORANDUM

TO: Library Directors

FROM: Mary L. Boone, State Librarian

DATE: October 5, 2007

SUBJECT: Announcement of LSTA 2008-2009 Project Grants

Deadline: Letters of Intent – November 15, 2007

Deadline: Full Applications – February 21, 2008

I am pleased to announce that the State Library's new LSTA Five-Year Plan, covering the years 2008-2012, has been approved by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) (see: <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/lsta/plan2008-12.pdf>). We have worked closely with the LSTA Advisory Committee to create a plan for our state that is broad in scope and that will continue to evolve over time. The new goals for North Carolina's LSTA program are to:

- Enrich the lives of North Carolinians through enhanced and targeted programs and services in our libraries that address the needs of specific audiences.
- Enhance information for lifelong learning for all North Carolinians by expanding the information resources in our state's libraries through strengthening, sharing, digitizing and preserving our valuable and unique collections.
- Promote equal access to 21st century library services for all North Carolinians by providing contemporary and evolving technologies to our state's libraries through programs to address infrastructure, resources and services.

Here are some important changes for 2008-2009 Project grants.

- *Technology Grants:* a single technology grant category has been created to support technology-based projects that improve library services for users and/or enhance user access to electronic resources. Projects will consist primarily of technology expenditures but must focus on library users and their needs. Automated System and Internet Infrastructure grants will not be offered as separate categories, but will fall under the Technology Grant program. (Basic Equipment grants fall in the EZ grant category and do not require the Letter of Intent.)
- *NC ECHO Digitization Grants:* a single digitization grant category has been created that is a combination of three previous grant programs: Digitization, Heritage Partners, and Digitization Starter.

Enclosed is a single page that provides brief descriptions of the three Project Grant Programs offered for 2008-2009, as well as where to find further information about them. Please note that guidelines and applications for EZ LSTA grants (that do not require the Letter of Intent) will be available in late December 2007. All grant applications are due February 21, 2008.

The State Library staff will be glad to answer your questions. Please contact Federal Programs Consultant Penny Hornsby at 919-807-7420 or *penny.hornsby@ncmail.net*.

Enclosure

State Library of North Carolina LSTA Project Grant Programs, 2008-2009

The following federally funded grant programs will be available to eligible libraries for implementation in 2008-2009. Project Grants have a two-step application process:

- Letter of Intent – Due November 15, 2007
- Full Grant Application – Due February 21, 2008

Three Project Grants are available for 2008-2009. See complete Information and Guidelines for each of the following grant programs at <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/lsta/2008-2009Grants.htm>.

- **Library Outreach Services Grants:** to help implement library services for communities of users who are currently unserved or underserved. Proposed services must be based on an analysis and assessment of local needs. *Multiyear grants allowed.* Maximum grant request: \$50,000 annually unless the project is a collaborative effort of multiple eligible libraries, in which case the maximum is \$100,000 annually. Minimum grant request: \$5,000 annually. Match required: 10% of grant amount for a one-year project, or year one of a multiyear project. For multiyear projects the local contribution must increase each year: second year, 25% of grant amount; third year, 50% of grant amount.
- **NC ECHO Digitization Grants:** to increase access and use of North Carolina's unique cultural holdings by helping libraries (and partners – other library and/or non-library partners, if appropriate) create online content and contextual information; prepare online finding aids; and incorporate Web cataloging or metadata into digitization projects. *Multiyear grants allowed.* Maximum grant request: \$75,000 annually unless the project is a collaborative effort of multiple institutions, in which case the maximum is \$150,000 annually. Minimum grant: \$2,500 annually. Match required: none for requests less than \$10,000; 10% of grant amount for requests of \$10,000 and above.
- **Technology Grants:** Grants to support technology-based projects to improve library services for users and/or enhance user access to electronic resources. Proposals in this category will consist primarily of technology expenditures (hardware, software, infrastructure, etc.) but must focus on library users and their needs rather than on technology alone. Applicants must demonstrate how their proposals support the goals of the State Library's LSTA Plan and their library's mission and goals. *Multiyear grants considered.* Maximum grant request: \$100,000 for a single library system; \$150,000 for a collaborative project of multiple library systems. Minimum grant request: none. Match required: 25% of grant amount.

NOTE: Automated System and Internet Infrastructure Grants have been subsumed into the new category of Technology Grants. Innovation Grants are not available for 2008-2009; innovative services and programs are welcome within existing categories.

Information on EZ LSTA grant programs that do **not** require a letter of intent will be available in late December 2007. Applications will be due February 21, 2008.

An overview of all 2008-2009 grant programs, and all available guidelines and application packages will be found on the State Library's LSTA Web page at the web location cited at the top of this page.